

PICTURESQUE SCENERY AND SPACIOUSNESS FOUND IN CATSKILLS

Mountain Resorts Popular With Seaside Dwellers—
Catskills Long Popular With New Yorkers.
Many Summer Cottages of People Well Known in
Social, Artistic and Professional Circles.
Variety of Accommodations—Hotels in the Various
Hamlets—Railroad Facilities.

There is a peculiar fascination in the idea of a vacation spent in the mountains that appeals strongly to the vast throng of people who spend the greater part of the year in the cities near the coast. Such an extent is this feeling recognized that the prescription, "Take a trip to the mountains," is undoubtedly given by physicians more at this time of the year than any remedy known to the world.

A change of air, a change of habits, a change of scenery appeal to the busy man or woman for eleven months in the year works under a steady pressure under nerve racking conditions, and as change of air, in the case of New Yorkers, means changing from the damp salt air of a seaboard town to the cool, dry, balsam laden air of the mountains, physicians often send their patients to the mountains instead of the seashore. This does not mean that the frequenters of mountain resorts are invalids, as the majority of people who are sent to the mountain resorts complain that they have drawn out of nature's resources, and that only by getting closer to nature can they recover their weakened energy.

Modern business conditions demand the change, and the recognition of this is shown in the fact that there are innumerable resorts today where millions of people are seeking rest, relaxation and recuperation in order to go back to the city and take up the strife of business.

Long Popularity of Catskills Among Manhattanites.

The nearly a century New York city has made tribute to the famed land of the Van Winkle as the most popular of the mountain resorts where they find nature's relief they seek.

Located almost at the door of New York it seems that nature in her generosity has provided this vast mountain park of over 2,500 square miles to be the playground for the vast city which the faraway would be located in time on Manhattan Island. And, judging by the growing popularity of the region, the residents of New York and the neighboring cities appreciate what nature has done for them in the creation of this park.

There are other mountain resorts, some of which will compare favorably with the Catskills in scenic beauty, but there is no resort in the world that is as easily and as quickly reached by New Yorkers as the Catskills, and this is undoubtedly the factor that has made Rip Van Winkle Land the popular summer resort of the city.

Although it is said that the Catskills were visited by Spanish explorers previous to the time they were visited by Hudson on his trip up the river in 1609, there is no authentic record of the visits. The first written description of the Catskills of which there is a record was in 1656, when after a trip to the Hudson Highlands, the Dutch Reformed Church wrote to the North River, half way between the Manhattan and Beverwyck (Albany) a place called by the Indians "Achterberg." It is an exceedingly fine country, and over 300 years afterward a single season a quarter of a million people subscribed to that belief by spending their summer vacation in the land of "Achterberg."

Now people have heard of the "Land of Abolitionists," but through song and story the Catskills have become famous wherever the Dutch language is spoken. The legend of Rip Van Winkle and other writings of Irving, the poems of Longfellow, the prose of the most famous writers in the world, have portrayed the beauties of this region.

Famous artists have found inspiration for many of their best canvases in the beauties of the Catskills, as an extended description of the mountains would be tedious even though a limited space were given to a description.

Those not familiar with the Catskills are sufficient to say that the main range is a little over 100 miles north of New York, at an average distance of seven miles west of the Hudson and stretches from north to south a distance of twenty miles. From the main chain they extend west a distance of from twenty to thirty miles, the elevation ranging from 2,200 feet to over 4,000 feet covering the greater part of the Catskill and Delaware counties and all of Ulster county.

Picturesque Beauty of the Mountain Cloves.

The high ranges are broken by clefts that extend from the summit of the mountains to the lowlands, and it is in these places, as they are known, that the most delightful and picturesque scenery to be found in the mountains. Three of these cloves are especially more famous than any other in the State of New York, the Kaaterskill, the Shawangunk and the Catskill. The Shawangunk, extending from Catskill to the Hudson, is the most famous, the Kaaterskill, extending from the Shawangunk to the Hudson, is the most famous, the Catskill, extending from the Shawangunk to the Hudson, is the most famous.

The Shawangunk, the least known of these, the water in its most pure form, the water of the Esopus has formed a series of the prettiest waterfalls to be found in the State. The falls in the Shawangunk, the outlet to the Hudson and the Kaaterskill, perhaps better known as the Kaaterskill Falls, forms a series of many falls, among which the Kaaterskill Falls, the highest falls in the State, and the Haines Falls, the most famous. While the Shawangunk has no large waterfalls, the Shawangunk on both sides of the creek is famous for its beauty and as the railroad crosses its way through this clove the road, craggy mountains on both sides of the tracks are most impressive. In writing of the Catskills, Lowell writes of them "un-man-stuffed" and while this may be true, the Shawangunk people will be enjoying their beauty and are still "un-man-stuffed" because the vast area will provide a resting place for over a million in years to come, through the fact that they inspire in popularity annually.

Over seventy villages and hamlets, ranging from Catskill, a modern village with nearly 6,000 inhabitants, to the small hamlet with a dozen houses, are embraced in this magnificent territory, with over 2,000 places where summer visitors are entertained.

One of the chief attractions of the Catskill Mountains is the wide range of accommodations and the prices charged for entertainment. The tourist may select the palatial mountain hotel accommodating a thousand or more people and from that down to the small private farm house where from two to ten people are entertained, the prices for accommodation ranging from \$40 a week to \$5 or \$7 a week.

In recent years vast cottage settlements have grown up throughout the mountains, where people of wealth and social standing have formed organizations and created settlements; at Haines Falls, Twilight, Santa Cruz and Sunset parks form one of the largest and best known settlements in the world; Ontonagon Park, about a mile north of Tannersville, is known for the beauty of its location and the exclusiveness of its cottages; while about a mile to the south of Tannersville, Elka Park, the home of some of the most prominent German people of the State, forms a pretty picture that leaves an impression on those who see it.

Paleville has a large summer colony on the side of the mountain. Pine Hill has several colonies that are growing. Fleischmann is well provided for in this respect, and the section between Big Indian and Slide Mountain has another extensive colony. The artists' colony at Margaretville brings a number of famous artists to the Catskills annually.

Summer Cottages of Well Known People.

Differing from most resorts where exclusiveness is the keynote, the Catskills bid a warm welcome to all classes of people, and a glance at the list of cottagers who by owning their own homes find the exclusiveness they desire and at the hotel registers one will find the famous actor, the artist, the financial magnate, the successful writer, the noted clergyman and the clerks and stenographers who have a brief two weeks vacation at what they consider the most delightful section on earth.

Maudie Adams has her beautiful summer home at Ontonagon, where, also during the pleasant summer days, the Right Rev. Bishop Satterlee of Washington, D. C., Prof. Frederick R. Hutton of Columbia College, Gen. George W. Winante, Carl Winante, Mrs. C. C. Whitney, Judge Otto Cruise and others find their relaxation. It was here that the Lord Bishop of Rochester, England, found a view that he said compared favorably with the Rocky Mountains.

At Elka Park Jacob Hasselbacher, one of the most prominent members of the German societies in New York, Fred Benken, Mr. and Mrs. E. Von Inten, William A. Hamann, Mrs. Pauline Keppeler and Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Hug have summer homes noted for hospitality.

At Roxbury, the birthplace of the late Jay Gould, Mrs. Finley J. Shepard has a beautiful summer home and park, where she spends a portion of each season. At Spring Lodge in the Windstock section George J. Gould has a beautiful estate that he delights in visiting.

Julia Marlowe's summer home at Hightstown is one of the prettiest in the mountains and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mann have a delightful summer home in that section of Shandaken, where they spend considerable time. The Fleischmann family have their summer park at Fleischmanns, and their library has made it one of the prettiest parts of the entire Catskills.

Stamford, Granthurst and Churchill parks have large and growing settlements and the settlement at Roxbury is one of the prettiest in Ulster county. It is, however, in the hotels and boarding houses and in the villages of the Catskills that the average resort frequenter is interested, so passing over the park settlements a word about the village will probably meet with the approval of the majority of people.

The Village of Catskill and Its Accommodations.

Catskill is the largest of the villages in the Catskills, and although the village itself is not in the mountains, the hotels and boarding houses are situated on the hills on the outskirts. The scenery is delightful, the village accessible and the variety of amusements greater than at a number of the resorts. Golf, tennis, bathing, fishing, baseball, trolley excursions, automobile, dancing, etc., are found here at every hand.

There are a number of pretty one day trips that can be made from here, and within the past few years the village of Catskill and the hamlet of Leeds, a suburb of Catskill, have become unusually popular with the younger set who arrive early and remain late.

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